Please amend Claims 1 and 10, and add Claim 60. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1.   (Currently Amended) An image managing apparatus for managing retrievable images, comprising:

image storage means for storing a plurality of images;

selecting means for selecting a single image from the plurality of images;

input means for inputting relevant information concerning a plurality of objects within the single image, wherein the relevant information includes a word describing ~~an interrelationship between at least two objects within the single image~~ a state that interrelates at least one object within the single image with at least one other object within the single image; and

memory means for storing the relevant information inputted by said input means in association with the single image.

2.   (Original) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

3.	(Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

4.	(Canceled)

5.	(Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

6.	(Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means includes position designating means for designating a position of an object in the single image, and display means for displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

7.	(Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the position designating means designates positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image.

8.   (Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising retrieval requirement input means for inputting requirements for retrieval, and image retrieving means for retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval inputted by said retrieval requirement input means.

9.   (Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof.

10.   (Currently Amended) An image retrieving apparatus for retrieving images, comprising:

image storage means for storing a plurality of images;

~~selecting means for selecting a single image from the plurality of images;~~

memory means for storing identification information concerning a plurality of objects contained in [[the]] a single image stored in said storage means in association with relevant information concerning the plurality of objects, wherein the relevant information

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includes a word describing ~~an interrelationship between at least two objects within the single image~~ <u>a state that interrelates at least one object within the single image with at least one other object within the single image</u>;

retrieval requirement input means for inputting requirements for retrieval; and

retrieving means for retrieving an image that meets the requirements for retrieval inputted by said retrieval requirement input means, based on the relevant information stored in said memory means.

11.   (Original) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

12.   (Previously Presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Previously presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

15.   (Previously Presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a position designating means for designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and display means for displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

16.   (Previously Presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said position designating means designates positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image.

17.   (Previously Presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said input means inputs supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof.

18.   (Previously presented) An image managing method for managing retrievable images, comprising:

an image storage step, of storing a plurality of images;

a selecting step, of selecting a single image from the plurality of images;

an input step, of inputting relevant information concerning a plurality of objects within the single image, wherein the relevant information includes a word describing an interrelationship between at least two objects within the single image; and

a storage step, of storing the relevant information inputted in said input step in association with the single image.

19.   (Original) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

20.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 19, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

23.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein said input step includes a position designation step of designating a position of an object in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

24.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 23, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

25.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 18, further comprising a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval, and an image retrieval step of retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval inputted in said retrieval requirement input step.

26.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein, in said input step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is inputted.

27.   (Currently amended) An image retrieving method for retrieving images, comprising:

an image storage step, of storing a plurality of images;

~~a selecting step, of selecting a single image from the plurality of images;~~

a storage step, of storing identification information concerning a plurality of objects contained in ~~the~~ a single image <u>stored in said storage step</u> in association with relevant information concerning the plurality of objects, wherein the relevant information includes a word describing ~~an interrelationship between at least two objects within the single image~~ <u>a state that interrelates at least one object within the single image with at least one other object within the single image</u>;

a retrieval requirement input step, of inputting requirements for retrieval; and

a retrieval step, of retrieving an image that meets the requirements for retrieval inputted in said retrieval requirement input step, based on the stored relevant information.

28.   (Original) An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

29.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 28, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

32.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 27, further comprising a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

33.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 32, wherein, in said position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

34.   (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim

27, wherein, in said storage step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-

related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information

thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof,

weather information thereof, and event information thereof is stored.

35.   (Previously presented) A storage medium in which is stored a program for

implementing an image managing method for managing retrievable stored images, the method

comprising:

an image storage step, of storing a plurality of images;

a selecting step, of selecting a single image from the plurality of images;

an input step, of inputting relevant information concerning a plurality of objects

within the single image, wherein the relevant information includes a word describing an

interrelationship between at least two objects within the single image; and

a storage step, of storing the relevant information inputted in said input step in

association with the single image.

36.   (Original) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the relevant

information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper

noun thereof, and a position thereof.

37.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein

the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

38.   (Canceled)

39.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein

the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

40.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein

said input step includes a position designation step of designating a position of an object in the

single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the relevant

information concerning the object at the designated position.

41.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 40, wherein,

in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are

designated.

42. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the method further comprises a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval, and an image retrieval step of retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval inputted in the retrieval requirement input step.

43. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein, in said input step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is inputted.

44. (Previously presented) A storage medium in which is stored a program for implementing an image retrieving method for retrieving stored images, the method comprising:

an image storage step, of storing a plurality of images;

a selecting step, of selecting a single image from the plurality of images;

a storage step, of storing identification information concerning a plurality of objects contained in the single image in association with relevant information, wherein the relevant information includes a word describing an interrelationship between at least two objects within the single image;

a retrieval requirement input step, of inputting requirements for retrieval; and

a retrieval step, of retrieving an image that meets the requirements for retrieval inputted in the retrieval requirement input step, based on the stored relevant information.

45.   (Original) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

46.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

47.   (Canceled)

48.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 45, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

49.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the method further comprises a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

50. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 49, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

51. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein, in said storage step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is stored.

52. (Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

53. (Previously Presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

54. (Previously Presented) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

55.   (Previously Presented) An image retrieving method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

56.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

57.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

58.   (Previously presented) An image managing apparatus for managing retrievable images, comprising:

an image storage unit for storing a plurality of images;

a selecting unit for selecting a single image from the plurality of images;

an input unit, operable to input relevant information concerning a plurality of objects within the single image, wherein the relevant information includes a word describing an interrelationship between at least two objects within the single image; and

a storage unit, operable to store the relevant information inputted by said input unit in association with the single image.

59.   (Previously presented) An image retrieval apparatus for retrieving images,

comprising:

an image storage unit for storing a plurality of images;

a selecting unit for selecting a single image from the plurality of images;

a storage unit, operable to store identification information concerning a plurality

of objects contained in the single image in association with relevant information concerning the

plurality of objects, the relevant information including a word describing an interrelationship

between at least two objects within the single image;

a retrieval requirement input unit, operable to input requirements for retrieval; and

a retrieval unit, operable to retrieve an image that meets the requirements for

retrieval inputted by said retrieval requirement input unit, based on the relevant information

stored in said storage unit.

60.   (New) An image managing apparatus for managing retrievable images,

comprising:

image storage means for storing a plurality of images;

selecting means for selecting a single image from the plurality of images;

input means for inputting relevant information concerning a plurality of objects within the single image, wherein the relevant information includes a word describing an interrelationship applicable to at least two objects as those objects appear within the single image; and

memory means for storing the relevant information inputted by said input means in association with the single image.